age to guard against dumping by developed countries and has stressed that the developing countries be allowed to impose restrictions on some imports in order to promote sustainable agricultural development;

(b) whether in a recent study, the WWF has also appealed to Governments to undertake an indepth study of the impact of General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) on the environment and food security of their countries before implementing its provisions;

(c) if so, Government's reaction on reviewing the Uruguay Round farm package;

(d) whether the UN Environment Programme has set up a technical working group on "environmental review of trade policies'; and

(e) if so, whether India is also associated with this group in any manner and if not, the reasons for ignoring it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The negotiations in the Uruguay Round have concluded.

(d) Government has not been informed by UNEP about the setting-up of any technical working group on the subject.

(e) Does not arise.

Dwindling Exports and Lower domestic consumption witting Tea productiontargets

3106. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether dwindling exports and lower domestic consumption will slow down the country's efforts to achieve its amlutious production target of one billion kg. of tea by the turn of the century;

(b) the reasons for the country's share of world tea exports having fallen below 20 per cent while domestic consumption growth being bro,ped to 30 per cent in the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken to raise the output of tea and boost the capita domestic demand by increasing per capita consumption and re-work the target fixing output with marketaoility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. The domestic consumption of tea has been experiencing a steady increase of 20 to 22 mnkg per annum over the last few years. However, there has been a decline in export o tea in the last three years. It is a temporary phenomenon owing mainly to less import of tea by Russia and other CIS countries which accounted for nearly 50 per cent of India's exports. Inspite of this setback, all out efforts are being made to enhance production in order to meet the set targets.

(b) and (c) The main reason for decline in India's share in the world market are attributable to: (i) Less intake by Iran, Egypt, Russia and other CIS countries owing to their own internal problems. (ii) Flooding of world market with cheap tea by Sri Lanka, Kenya, Indonesia etc.

In order to increase production, Tea Board has been operating various development schemes. The Board has also prepared a perspective plan to increase production of tea which includes short-term measures such as optimisation of inputs and improved agricultural practices; medium term measures such as irrigation, drainage, rejuvanation, pruning and infiling; as well as long-term measures such as re-planting and extension planting.

Since domestic demand has been increasing steadily, no special measures are envisaged for increasing per capita consumption in the country. Revision of production target is not considered necessary keeping in view the steady increase in the consumption and likely export demand in the future.

Free travel for Employment within the member countries of WTO

3107. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, under the GATT agreement, citizens of the member countries of WTO, are free to travel to other member countries for the purpose of employment and other professional venture;

(b) if so, the steps taken or contemplated to facilitate Indian citizens to secure employment etc. abroad in the event of any restriction/restraints being imposed upon them by any of the WTO member countries in contravention of the GATT agreement;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of foreign nationals have already taken up jobs in various professions in India by virtue of the said agreement;

(d) if so, the number thereof alongwith names of the respective countries; and

(e) the details of the machanism, if any, introduced to regulate their entry, activities and the overall conduct in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The General Agreement on trade in services (GATS) provides a framework for the negotiation of market access commitments in various services sectors and for the temporary relocation of skilled personnel as a part of a services contract or in the catergories of intra-corporate transferees and business visitors. Negotiations on the temporary relocation of skilled personnel are still continuing at Geneva. India is seeking market access in its major trading partners for its skilled personnel in different services sectors. The WTO Agreement has provisions for consultation and dispute settlement which can be invoked in case a member country adopt measures in contravention of the Agreement.

(c) Negotiations on the temporary relocation of skilled personnel under the GATS are still continuing. It is not possible to determine the number of foreign nationals employed in India as a result of the Agreement.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The entry and activities of foreign nationals into the country are regulated by the visa regulations and security checks. Since negotiations on movement of personnel have not yet concluded, there has been no change in these regulations on account of the GATS.

Import and Export of Sugar

3108. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of sugar imported during the period 1.4.94 to 21-12-94 as compared to the last two years; and

(b) what is the total quantity of sugar exported during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). According to the information available with Director General of Commercial